

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

IO-11 SAM-01 ACDA-05 AID-05 EUR-12 /097 W

----- 101696

R 221600Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3685

INFO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0143

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, AG, MO, SS

SUBJ: SAHARA: ALLEGED MOROCCAN USE OF NAPALM

REF ALGIERS 0134

1. POLISARIO AND ALGERIAN MEDIA ARE MAKING MUCH OF  
ALLEGED MOROCCAN AIR ATTACKS ON REFUGEE CAMPS AND HAVE  
CHARGED MOROCCAN AIR FORCE WITH USING NAPALM, SOURCED  
TO FRENCH, IN THESE OPERATIONS. ALGERIAN PRESS SERVICE  
REPROT CARRIED IN PRESS JAN. 22 CLAIMS THAT ON JAN. 18  
AND 19 MOROCCAN AIR FORCE ATTACKED CAMPS AT TIFARITI, BIR  
LAHLOU AND TARNIT, RESPECTIVELY 80, 150, AND 210 KILOMETERS  
FROM SMARA, AND CAUSED NUMEROUS CASUALTIES AMONG CAMPS'  
POPULATIONS, PARTICULARLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN. IN  
INTERVIEW JAN. 21, POLISARIO SPOKESMAN AHMED OULD BABA  
MISKE SAID THAT USE OF MOROCCAN AIR POWER IN SAHARA HAD  
INCREASED GREATLY IN PAST FEW DAYS AND THAT NAPALM HAD  
BEEN USED AGAINST SAHRAOUIS SEEKING TO LEAVE DAKHLA AND  
ARGOUB IN SOUTHEAST AS WELL AS IN NORTHERN SAHARA.  
MISKE ASSERTED THAT MAN AND BEAST WERE SUBJECT TO ATTACKS  
AND THAT WATER SYSTEMS HAVE BECOME MILITARY OBJECTIVES  
AS WELL.

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2. PRESS ALSO ASSERTS THAT MOROCCAN TANKS BOMBARDED

REFUGEE CAMPS NORTH OF TIFARITI WITH 75 MM SHELLS.

3. COMMENT: WHILE WE CONTINUE TREAT POLISAIRO COMMUNIQUES WITH RESERVE, WE FIND THERE IS SOME SUBSTANCE TO THEM MORE OFTEN THAN NOT. IF THERE IS TRUTH IN REPORTS, ALGERIANS MAY BE ABLE TO EXPLOIT THEM THROUGH SOME SORT OF VISUAL MEDIA COVERAGE. ALGERIAN TV CREW HAS RECENTLY DONE FILMING IN MAHBES AND MIGHT BE ABLE IN NEAR FUTURE TO GET SOME "ON-THE-SCENE" REPORTING FROM CAMPS SUBSTANTIATING POLISARIO CLAIM THAT MOROCCANS OUT TO EXTERMINATE SAHRAOUI PEOPLE. PICTURES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN WITH MAPALM BURNS, ESPECIALLY IF NAPALM DELIVERED BY F-5'S WE HAVE PROVIDED MOROCCANS, UNLIKELY DO US MUCH GOOD LOCALLY OR IN INTERNATIONAL MEDIA.

5. IN LIGHT OF FOREGOING, REITERATE REQUEST IN REFTEL FOR BACKGROUND CONCERNING MOROCCAN AIR STRIKES IN SAHARA AND, IN PARTICULAR, POSSIBILITY OF THEIR HAVING USED NAPALM THERE.

PARKER

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## Message Attributes

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